

pursuance of the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee, which was set up of comprehensive review of the regulatory system in the country including the extent of problem of spurious drugs and remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The major amendments proposed relate to enhancement of penalties prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, provision of special courts for drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bailable. All this is expected to act as a strong deterrent for manufacturers of counterfeit drugs. Government of India has also launched a 5-year World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs with a total project cost of Rs. 354.25 crores. Extensive assistance is being provided to State Governments to augment their drug testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the Project.

Programmes to control population growth

513. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any specific time-bound programmes have been identified by Government recently with the help of experts to deal with the population growth in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have given any response recently towards notice issued by the Hon'ble High Court/Supreme Court regarding implementation of two child norm for containing population growth in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 throughout the country with special emphasis on 18 States with week demographic and health indications. More attention is being paid to these States to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective, reliable, and quality primary health care, through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health

Activists (ASHA), improved hospital care measured through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. The NRHM provides for a thrust on population stabilization as well.

Special efforts to deal with population growth, in line with the National Population Policy is being attended under NRHM in the following manner:

- * Improvement in functioning of Public health facilities at all levels to meet unmet demands for Family Planning.
- * Quality family welfare services under the RCH-II component of NRHM.
- * Intensive campaign for creating awareness, especially with the help of ASHAs.
- * Provision for additional manpower and service guarantees at all levels of health facilities.
- * Training of Medical Officers/ANMs/Nurses in still upgradation for providing salary planning services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The notice of Writ Petition No. 23/2004 filed by the Azadi Bachao Andolan and another versus UOI and other in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has been received. The Writ Petition is regarding Population growth and implementation of National Population Policy, 2000.

ASSOCHAM findings on spurious drugs

514. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the findings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ASSOCHAM) highlighting that the volume of counterfeit and contraband drugs and pharmaceutical products in India have witnessed substantial growth this year;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study/survey/investigation into the circulation of spurious and counterfeit drugs in the market since the issue was agitated in Parliament in its preceding sessions;